

## REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-27 have been amended. Claims 28-29 have been cancelled without prejudice. No new claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1-27 are now presented for examination. The following remarks are in response to the final Office Action mailed on December 21, 2004.

### 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claim 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Attwood, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,347,376 (“Attwood”) in view of Nikander, et al., 6,252,321 (“Nikander”).

Applicant respectfully submits Attwood discloses that “searching of the security database is further improved by *searching the database at layers higher than the IP layer*” and “*searching of the Ipsec rules to be performed generally only when a connection is first established*” and “[s]ince the TCP package is part of a connection, *Ipsec rule searching at the higher TCP layer allows the search to occur only at the beginning of a connection*” (col. 3, lines 71-19, 38-40; col. 8, lines 57-60; emphasis provided). Attwood further discloses “[f]or outgoing TCP and UDP packages, the *searching of the static rule table is performed at the TCP and UDP layers and the security rule binding information is attached to these packets at the higher layer.*” (col. 9, lines 30-34; emphasis provided).

Applicant respectfully submits Attwood relates to reducing the number of *searches that may be required for IPsec operations*, and nowhere does Attwood disclose or reasonably suggest “intercepting a Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) connection”

request by an application” as recited by claim 1. (emphasis provided). Stated differently, the intercepting of claim 1 is to stop packets from being transmitted before they have obtained the necessary security association. Transmitting packets without the necessary security associations requires that the packets be retransmitted, thus unnecessarily taking up network resources. (Specification, page 2, lines 6-8 and page 12, lines 18-22).

Nikander, like Attwood, does not disclose or reasonably suggest intercepting a Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) connection request by an application, as recited by claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over Attwood in view of Nikander.

Claim 10, 17, 20 and 24 contain limitations similar to those of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 10, 17, 20 and 24 and their dependent claims.

### **Conclusion**

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is hereby earnestly requested.

### **Invitation for a Telephone Interview**

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

### **Request for an Extension of Time**

The Applicant respectfully petitions for an Extension of Time to respond to the Advisory Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

### **Charge our Deposit Account**

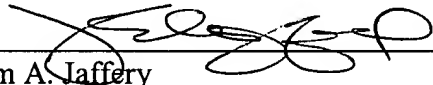
Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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LLP

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